

# Education, Job Training Have Vital Roles in U.S.

By VINCENT THOMAS  
 Assemblyman, 68th District  
 "The only cure for unemployment is more jobs," a top expert on vocational education told a legislative committee which is investigating California's job market problems. Education, he emphasized, has a vital role in preparing job

seekers to fill openings which do exist, but cannot of itself create new jobs.  
 The Assembly Interim Committee on Industrial Relations heard this testimony at the first of a series of hearings intended to develop the problems of various segments of the state's labor force in locating

and holding jobs. The gigantic task of furnishing work for those who will need it in the years to come is complicated by a number of basic factors, and conflicts will undoubtedly arise between the competitive groups involved.  
**FIRST OF** these underlying

factors is the enormous increase in the number of youngsters who will enter the labor market during the years immediately ahead. The postwar baby booms has already made itself felt. The number of Californians in the 14 to 17 age bracket jumped 90 per cent between 1950 and 1960, and will

soar almost that much in the next 10 years.  
 A second factor is the greatly increased number of women in the state who will enter the job market. Some two million were employed in 1960, but by 1870 the number of women at work is forecast at three million. An interesting sidelight

on this factor is that the number of women working who are past 45 is also growing rapidly.  
 A **THIRD** factor is the incontrovertible evidence that adequate education and job training are vital to everyone in coping with this age of increasing automation in all lines of

work. This factor is of special importance to minority groups.  
 The committee was told that women are successfully invading job areas formerly believed sacred to men. Today, 30 per cent of the women who work are employed in clerical and allied jobs, and another 25 per cent in service occupations. But the number of women at work in manufacturing in California has leap-frogged almost 400 per cent in the last 20 years. From garment-making to electronics, from appliances to the

newest convenience foods, women have assumed a major proportion of the labor.  
**THE VOCATIONAL** education specialist testified that California has done more to train or retrain workers than any other state. However, the problem is intensified by the fact that more than four million residents — about a fifth of our total population — have never finished high school, and the proportion of such persons is increasing. Yet a high school diploma is now generally regarded as the minimum qualification in the job market.  
 He was particularly critical of the current imbalance between college preparatory and vocational programs offered in high schools. He declared that the comprehensive high school is giving disproportionate attention to college bound students, but that the equally important needs of job-bound youths have been overlooked or slighted. Large numbers of youths with academic, socioeconomic, or other handicaps that prevent them from profiting from available vocational education are not being served adequately by existing high school curriculums.  
 It was predicted to the committee that our fast-changing technology will soon require a pattern of life-time training for everyone. How this end can best be achieved is the most pressing problem now before the people, the Legislature, and educators.

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## Law In Action

The other day Pete Sneak found John Jones' wallet together with three blank checks drawn on his bank.  
 Pete's luck ran out soon afterwards: A policeman stopped him for speeding. When he asked for Pete's driver's license, he showed a false one. The policeman saw a real estate sign and a lot of junk in Pete's car and hauled him in for having a false driver's license and for malicious mischief.

**PETE PLEADED** guilty and went to jail for a time. There the sheriff found in Pete's pocket Jones' three checks and had written in his own name as payee. Pete had carried the checks around for several days, but had not cashed them.  
 The district attorney charged Pete with possession of forged checks and bills and convicted him under a new law. If a person has a completed check on him with the intent of using it to defraud another person, he is guilty of crime. Mere possession of such a false check became a crime.  
 How can the court know that the thief meant to pass the check? By what he does: Did he fill it out? Did he endorse it? Has he done other things so that he could cash it later?

A **FINDER** of valuable property cannot just keep it. Legally, he should seek the owner, or turn it over to the police. Sometimes the finder has a duty to advertise for the owner. Only if no one claims the property after that time, may the finder keep it.  
 It is also theft knowingly to keep property not yours, such as a gain due to the bank's favorable mistake.  
 Some kinds of found property is truly abandoned. The finder can keep things that have no value, which somebody has left somewhere.

**THE STATE** has several laws on its books about property left in banks, corporation accounts, stored in warehouse, etc. From time to time these businesses must report to the state on this property. After a time, the state then seeks the owners. If no owner claims it, the state acquires the property.  
 Note: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.

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